

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2107
AMCONSUL GENOA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6944

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, OVIP (SMITH, ALLIE)
SUBJECT: FRIENDSHIP FORCE - VISIT OF PRESIDENT'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

REF: A. ROME 6589, B. GENOA 0221

1. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED FOLLOWING TELEGRAM DATED
APRIL 4 FROM WAYNE SMITH, THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE, ATLANTA,
GEORGIA. BEGIN TEXT:

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED TODAY THAT MRS. ALLIE SMITH, ROSALYNN
CARTER'S MOTHER WILL ACCOMPANHY THE RICHMOND FRIENDSHIP
FORCE DELEGATION AS AN AMBASSADOR. WHILE THIS IS A PRIVATE
VISIT, WE CERTAINLY WANTED YOU TO BE INFORMED. YOU MAY WISH
TO CONTACT MR. GIUSEPPINO ROBERTO, GENOA FRIENDSHIP FORCE
FLIGHT CHAIRPERSON, WHO IS THE COORDINATING
POINT FOR MRS. SMITH'S VISIT. ANY ASSISTANCE YOU ARE ABLE TO
OFFER THE LOCAL GROUP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. OUR
THANKS. END TEXT.

2. REPLY HAS NOT BEEN SENT PENDING REVIEW OF SECURITY
SITUATION IN GENOA AND EVALUATION OF WISDOM OF A
PRIVATE VISIT BY MRS. SMITH AT THIS TIME.

3. EMBASSY'S CONCERN STEMS NOT ONLY FROM CURRENT HIGH
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LEVEL OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN ITALY. THERE HAVE BEEN
IN ADDITION SIGNS THAT THE RED BRIGADES MAY NOW CONTEM-
PLATE ACTIONS AGAINST AMERICAN TARGETS. AS REPORTED IN
REFTEL A, THE RED BRIGADES' THEORETICAL DOCUMENT NOW
IN EMBASSY POSSESSION SPECIFICALLY TARGETS MULTINATIONALS,
NATO, AND THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION. AND THE MOST
RECENT COMMUNICATION FROM MORO'S KIDNAPPERS SPECULATED

THAT THE HARD LINE SO FAR FOLLOWED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE DUE TO "AMERICAN OR GERMAN INFLUENCE."

4. THESE NEW FACTORS MUST BE ADDED TO GENOA'S STATUS, REPORTED IN REFTEL B, AS A STRONGPOINT, IF NOT THE HEADQUARTERS, OF THE RED BRIGADES. IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THE TERRORISTS HAVE OPERATED THERE WITH RELATIVE IMPUNITY FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

5. THE EMBASSY AGREES WITH AMCONSUL GENOA THAT THE RED BRIGADES HAVE NOT IN THE PAST TARGETED FAMILY MEMBERS. THEY HAVE CONCENTRATED THEIR EFFORTS UPON PRINCIPALS WHOSE CAPTURE, WOUNDING, OR KILLING WOULD HAVE SYMBOLIC VALUE IN THE BRIGADES' REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE.

6. HAVING CONSIDERED ALL THE FACTORS, THE EMBASSY IS NOT INCLINED TO RECOMMEND AGAINST MRS. SMITH'S VISIT WITH THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE GROUP. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EMBASSY THINKS IT ESSENTIAL TO PRE-ARRANGE ADEQUATE 24-HOUR SECURITY PROTECTION FOR MRS. SMITH BY THE ITALIAN POLICE. MRS. SMITH SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SECURITY CONCERNS WILL IMPACT UPON HER FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND THEREFORE UPON HER PROGRAM. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT MRS. SMITH BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NEED FOR SUCH PROTECTION.

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7. IF THE DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH THE COURSE OF ACTION RECOMMENDED, THE AMBASSADOR WILL REPLY AS FOLLOWS TO WAYNE SMITH'S TELEGRAM. BEGIN TEXT:

NEWS OF PARTICIPATION OF MRS. ALLIE SMITH IN RICHMOND FRIENDSHIP FORCE DELEGATION IS MOST WELCOME. OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN GENOA IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ASSISTING GENOA FRIENDSHIP FORCE GROUP, AND WILL PASS ON GLAD NEWS. THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME INFORMED. WITH EVERY BEST WISH FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN YOUR IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR. END TEXT.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF COURSE OF ACTION SUGGESTED, AND DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT WITH WAYNE SMITH AND MRS. ALLIE SMITH REGARDING SECURITY CONDITIONS AND PRECAUTIONS. GARDNER

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